

I ask my colleagues to vote down this rule and vote against the underlying legislation.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY).

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Ways and Means committee, I have tried my best to work with Chairman RANGEL to engender an atmosphere in our committee of comity, an atmosphere that engenders respect for one another's views, and to engender an atmosphere in which we can fully explore and debate and discuss issues.

We have very talented members on both sides of the aisle on the Ways and Means Committee, and we are not afraid to discuss issues and to debate differences that we have in those issues. It's a great committee.

I gave a letter to the Rules Committee citing 24 instances just since the year 2000 where on tax bills when we were in the majority we gave the minority the chance to offer a substitute, an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Tax bills are always closed to amendments. We don't just allow willy-nilly amendments to tax bills, for good reason. But we almost always offer the minority an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

I am not pleased that the Rules Committee, and I suppose with the consent of the chairman, did not offer us an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Vote against this rule.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this rule is a joke. It does nothing for supply. No renewable fuel standard, no alternative fuel standard, 7 minutes for debate by the minority side on energy policy in this country. Are you crazy?

Coal. Take it down then, take it down, if you want. This is coal, our largest resource in this country, to help decrease our reliance on imported crude oil. What will it do for the economy? Coal-to-liquid, 1,000 jobs, 2,500 construction jobs, 15 million tons of coal, up to 500 coal-mining jobs. You all say no.

What's it do for our national security, coal, to coal-to-liquid refinery, to pipelines to fuel our Air Force? Our Air Force is demanding liquified gasoline moved into jet fuel to decrease our reliance on important crude oil, and you guys won't bring up an energy bill? Shame on you.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Air Resources

Board in the State of California and working on air pollution issues for decades, I was looking at the text that said this bill was going to move America forward.

This text is not moving America forward; it's moving us back to a 1970's agenda. This agenda is the same agenda we had in the environmental community in the 1970s. In the 1970s, we were doing the best we could then. But this is the best America can expect from this Congress, is 30-year-old ideas that have been proven false, and the example, this bill is going to pick winners and losers in the industry.

It is going to mandate not only the inclusion of poisons in our gasoline in places like California where in 1992 we warned you about MTBE, we warned you that ethanol was going to cause problems, but this place was bought off by special interest groups that claimed to be environmentally sensitive and forced MTBE into the fuel of America.

Later, when you realized we were right, you said, sorry. Just last, a few months ago, Harvard came out with another study about ethanol. All we are asking is, don't mandate that this poison is put in the fuel.

If you can't believe CARB, then why are the States around the north using our standards at CARB to clean up the environment? Look before you leap, but this technology that we are talking about doesn't even include zero mission generators like high pressure gas reactors, doesn't include.

The only way we are going to beat greenhouse gases is to go nuclear, but you don't have the political guts to look our friends in the eye and say we have got to move beyond the 1970s. We have got to move forward. We have got to be willing to do what is right for the environment.

If that tells Archer Daniels Midland or the extreme wackos who are always going to be against nuclear that, sorry, guys, the environment comes first, if you don't have the guts to do that, don't claim this is a green proposal. 1970 cars are polluting and wasteful. This bill is polluting and wasteful.

□ 1030

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking Members to defeat the previous question so that I may amend the rule to provide for the adoption of H. Res. 622, a resolution introduced by Mr. BLUNT to correct the injustice done to all Members of this House on August 2, 2007.

As my colleagues know, the majority engaged in a manipulation of the vote on the motion to recommit the Agriculture appropriations bill to reverse the outcome.

If we defeat the previous question, the resolution will direct the Clerk to retrieve the Agriculture appropriations bill from the Senate, add in the amendments that should have been included in the bill, and return the bill to the Senate.

While we took the important step yesterday to establish a select committee to investigate the reasons why this injustice occurred, the Agriculture appropriations bill will continue through the legislative process well before the select committee's final report is complete; meaning that we must act now to correct this injustice.

I ask my colleagues to support me in defeating the previous question and righting this wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed just prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Democrats and Republicans alike have decried what took place late last Thursday night. This previous question which we are about to vote upon would allow the Democrats to erase the most unsightly of blemishes on the already tarnished record that we witnessed governing this institution. It would allow us as a body to heal, and to give democracy an opportunity to once again flourish in this hallowed institution. Mr. Speaker, this previous question vote will in fact give us as a body the opportunity to heal. I urge my colleagues to join with Mr. DIAZ-BALART in voting "no" on the previous question so we can rectify this wrong.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues in a responsible manner, realizing the historic importance of what has transpired this week, to defeat the previous question, allow this wrong to be righted, to defeat the previous question and defeat also this unfair rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, there are two points I would like to make, one about the rule and one about the process.

I served 13 years in the Vermont State Senate, a small body, 30 members, sometimes in the minority, sometimes in the majority; and we had fierce fights about issues of enormous public concern, tax policy, environmental policy. In all of the time that I served in that State Senate, winning fights, but losing as many as I won, I never, ever saw the other side leave on an appropriations vote. Never. When you lose, you get up and you fight another day. That is what we learned. That is what all of us have learned.

There is a use of process here that has an effect of avoiding discussing substantive issues that are really of vital concern to the people of this country and the people that we represent. None of us can certify that the position we take at any given moment